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Constitution  
of the  
Naval Order of the United States



General Commandery



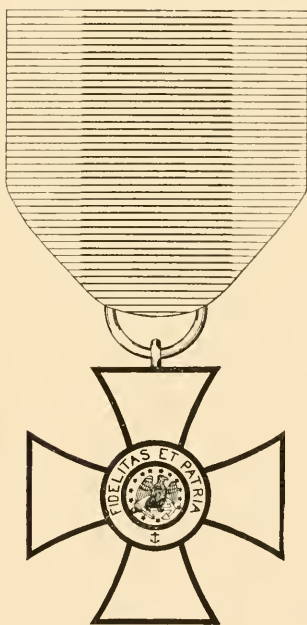




CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Naval Order of the United States



OVERSE.

GENERAL COMMANDERY.

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## Officers of the General Commandery.

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### *General Commander.*

JOHN CODMAN SOLEY, U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *Vice-General Commanders.*

JOHN LORIMER WORDEN, U. S. N., Washington, District of Columbia.

FRANCIS ASBURY ROE, U. S. N., Washington, District of Columbia.

HENRY CLAY TAYLOR, U. S. N., Washington, District of Columbia.

### *General Recorder.*

FRANK WILLIAM NICHOLS, U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *General Treasurer.*

THOMAS AMORY DEBLOIS, M. D., LATE U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *General Registrar.*

CHARLES CALHOUN PHILBROOK, LATE U. S. M. C., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *General Historian.*

THEODORUS BAILEY MYERS MASON, U. S. N., Washington, District of Columbia.

### *Assistant General Recorder.*

CHARLES FREDERICK BACON PHILBROOK, Boston, Massachusetts.

### *Assistant General Treasurer.*

WILLIAM LITHGOW WILLEY, Boston, Massachusetts.

### *Assistant General Registrar.*

FRANKLIN THOMASON BEATTY, M. D., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *Assistant General Historian.*

ARTHUR WELLINGTON CLARK, M. D., Boston, Massachusetts.

### *General Chaplain.*

REVEREND MINOT JUDSON SAVAGE, Boston, Massachusetts.

## General Council.

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HORATIO BARNARD LOWRY, U. S. M. C., Washington, District of Columbia.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRIS, U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

JOHN FAIRFIELD MERRY, U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

JACOB WILLIAM MILLER, LATE U. S. N., New York, New York.

THEODORE STRONG THOMPSON, U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

FRANCIS HENRY HARRINGTON, U. S. M. C., Boston, Massachusetts.

WILLIAM MELVILLE PAUL, LATE U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

THOMAS LORING CHURCHILL, LATE U. S. N., Boston, Massachusetts.

RICHARD KENT GATLEY, LATE U. S. N., Portland, Maine.

## Addresses of the General Officers.

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JOHN C. SOLEY, General Commander,

178 Devonshire Street, BOSTON, MASS.

C. F. BACON PHILBROOK, Assistant General Recorder,

P. O. Box 36, Station A, BOSTON, MASS.

THOMAS A. DEBLOIS, M. D., General Treasurer,

372 Marlboro Street, BOSTON, MASS.

## Preamble.

*Whereas*, Many of the principal battles and famous victories of the several wars in which the United States has participated were fought and achieved by the Naval forces,

*Whereas*, It is well and fitting that the illustrious deeds of the great Naval commanders, their companion officers in arms, and their subordinates in the wars of the United States should be forever honored and respected ;—

*Therefore*, Entertaining the most exalted admiration for the undying achievements of the Navy, we, the survivors and descendants of participants of those memorable conflicts, have joined ourselves together and have instituted the “Naval Order of the United States,” that we may transmit to our latest posterity their glorious names and memories ; and to encourage research and publication of data pertaining to Naval art and science, and to establish libraries in which to preserve all documents, rolls, books, portraits and relics relating to the Navy and its heroes at all times.

# Constitution.

## ARTICLE I.

### TITLE.

This institution shall be known by the name, style and title of the "Naval Order of the United States."

## ARTICLE II.

### ORGANIZATION.

The constituted bodies of this Order shall be designated as Commanderies, and shall consist of—

A General Commandery, to be known as the "General Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States."

State Commanderies, to be known as the "——— Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States."

## ARTICLE III.

### MEMBERSHIP.

The Companions of the Order shall be of two classes.

First Class. Officers, sailors or marines in actual service in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Revenue or Privateer services, during the wars, or in face of the enemy in any engagement in which the Navy of the United States has participated, and who resigned or were discharged with honor, or who are still in the service.

Second Class. Male lineal descendants of officers, sailors or marines in actual service in the Navy, Marine Corps, Revenue or Privateer services under the authority

of any of the thirteen original Colonies or States, or of the Continental Congress during the war of the Revolution, or of the United States during the war with France, the war with Tripoli, the war of 1812, the war with Mexico, the Civil war, or in face of the enemy in any engagement in which the Navy of the United States has participated, and who resigned or were discharged with honor, or who are still in the service.

## ARTICLE IV.

### OFFICERS.

The officers of the General Commandery shall be a General Commander, three Vice-General Commanders, a General Recorder, a General Treasurer, a General Registrar, a General Historian, an Assistant General Recorder, an Assistant General Treasurer, an Assistant General Registrar, an Assistant General Historian, a General Chaplain, and a General Council consisting of nine Companions, of which General Council the other officers shall be members *ex-officio*. They shall be elected triennially.

The officers of the State Commanderies shall be a Commander, a Vice-Commander, a Recorder, a Treasurer, a Registrar, a Historian, a Chaplain, and a Council consisting of nine Companions, of which Council the other officers shall be members *ex-officio*. They shall be elected annually, as hereinafter provided.

## ARTICLE V.

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

#### COMMANDER.

The Commander, or in his absence the Vice-Commander, or a chairman *pro tempore* shall preside at all meetings of the Commandery; shall exercise the duties of a presiding officer under parliamentary rules, subject to an appeal to the Commandery.

He shall have the power to convene special meetings of the Commandery or of the Council at his discretion, and shall convene the Commandery upon written request of ten Companions, and the Council upon written request of three of its members.

## RECORDER.

The Recorder shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Commandery and of the Council.

He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Commandery, and shall keep a record thereof.

He shall notify all applicants of their election or rejection.

He shall give due notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Commandery and of the Council.

He shall keep all accounts between the Commandery and the Companions, receive all moneys and pay them at least monthly to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

He shall transmit to the Registrar all applications and proofs of eligibility of all persons admitted.

He, together with the Registrar and Historian, shall have charge of all printing and publications directed by the Commandery or Council.

He shall have charge of the seal, certificate of incorporation, records, by-laws and all other documents other than those required to be deposited with the Registrar or Historian.

He, together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the Commandery and of the Council, and when required, authenticate them under seal.

He shall transmit to his successor in office within two weeks after the expiration of his term all books, papers and other property in his possession belonging to the Commandery.

## TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all moneys belonging to the Commandery, giving his receipt for the same, and shall pay out such sums only as shall be ordered by the Commandery or the Council.

He shall keep a regular account of all receipts and expenditures.

For the faithful performance of his duty he shall give such security as the Council may direct.

He shall transmit to his successor in office within two weeks after the expiration of his term all books, papers and other property in his possession belonging to the Commandery.

## REGISTRAR.

The Registrar shall receive from the Recorder, file, and keep on record all the proofs upon which membership has been granted.

He shall keep a register of the Companions of the Commandery in which shall be recorded every material fact relating to their membership.

He shall aid and co-operate with the Recorder and Historian in all printing and publications directed by the Commandery or Council.

In the absence of the Recorder he shall officiate in his stead.

He shall transmit to his successor in office within two weeks after the expiration of his term all records, books, papers and other property in his possession belonging to the Commandery.

## HISTORIAN.

The Historian shall keep a complete record of all historical and commemorative events of the Commandery.

He shall, with the aid of the Recorder and Registrar, prepare for publication all such documents as the Commandery or Council may direct.

He shall receive donations of documents, rolls, books, portraits and relics relating to the Navy, and shall make copies of such papers as the owners may not be willing to part with.

He shall, at the annual meeting of the Commandery, submit carefully prepared obituaries of the deceased Companions, and shall keep a record describing as fully as possible their places of burial.

He shall transmit to his successor in office within two weeks after the expiration of his term, all records, books, papers and other property in his possession belonging to the Commandery.

## CHAPLAIN.

The Chaplain shall be an ordained clergyman of a Christian church, and shall perform such duties as generally appertain to his office.

## COUNCIL.

The Council shall have control of the affairs and funds of the Commandery, and the power to call special meetings.

They shall have the power to elect applicants to membership upon a favorable report of the Committee on Membership, and to accept the resignation of any



enrolled Companion, and may also issue to any Companion in good standing upon his removal to another State, a letter recommending his acceptance to membership in the Commandery of that State; and, on receipt of official notice of his election, he shall be recorded as having been transferred. Such letter must be presented within one year from date.

They may suspend any Companion for just cause, and may recommend to the Commandery the expulsion of any Companion, after due investigation of the charges preferred against him.

They may direct the Recorder to drop from the roll the name of any Companion who shall be at least two years in arrears in the payment of his dues and who shall fail on proper notice to pay the same within sixty days, *provided*, however, that a Companion in the Navy on foreign service shall not be so dropped until the expiration of three years. But such Companion may be restored to membership at any time by the Council upon an application signed by him and the payment of arrears up to the date of his restoration.

They may suspend any officer from office for cause, which suspension must be immediately reported to the Commandery and action taken on the same within twenty-one days, by which after due investigation and by a two-thirds vote such suspension may be confirmed; or annulled, and the officer restored to his position.

They may appoint a Companion to such office *pro tempore* as shall be made vacant by death, resignation or neglect to serve, suspension or inability to perform the duties by reason of absence, sickness or other causes, or when the Commandery shall have failed to elect; which appointee shall act until his successor is elected or the inability due to said cause shall cease. *Provided*, that the offices of Commander and Recorder shall not be filled by the Council when the Vice Commander or Registrar are competent to act.

They shall receive nominations for officers and shall prepare tickets for voting at the annual meeting of the Commandery, and shall at the said meeting present a report of their proceedings for the past year.

They shall meet at least quarterly, and oftener, should it be deemed necessary by the Commander.

They may fill vacancies in the Council, and should any member other than an

officer be absent from three consecutive meetings of the same, his office may be declared vacant, and filled by appointment until the election of his successor.

Five Companions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## ARTICLE VI.

### CONGRESS.

The triennial congress of the order shall be held on the fifth day of October, in the City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at which triennial congress the General officers for the ensuing term shall be elected.

Special congresses may be called by the General Commander, when directed to do so by the General Council.

The following shall be members of such triennial or special congresses, and shall be entitled to vote therein :

1. The General officers, the Past General Commanders, Past Vice-General Commanders, and the Past State Commanders.
2. Three delegates or their alternates from each State Commandery.
3. *Ex-officio*, the Commander, Vice-Commander and Recorder of each State Commandery.

## ARTICLE VII.

### GENERAL COMMANDERY.

The General Commandery shall have the power to authorize and constitute a Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States in any State or Territory in which no such Commandery exists, when formally petitioned to do so by ten or more Companies of the Order residing in said State or Territory, and on receipt of the prescribed charter fee.

The fee to the General Commandery for chartering a State Commandery of the Order shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

The Charter of a State Commandery shall be of the form following :

## NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

### GENERAL COMMANDERY.

**Be it known** that *Companions*

*having made application in proper form for the institution of a Commandery of the Order in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and the same being approved, a Commandery is hereby authorized, instituted and established to be known as the Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States.*

*In testimony whereof, the Seal of the Order is hereunto affixed, and the hand of the General Commander, at Boston, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_ thousand \_\_\_\_\_ hundred and \_\_\_\_\_, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the Order, the \_\_\_\_\_*

*Attest.*

*General Commander.*

*No.*

*General Recorder.*

It shall issue all Diplomas of Membership and the Insignia of the Order.

The General Council shall meet at least semi-annually, and oftener should it be deemed necessary by the General Commander.

The permanent headquarters of the General Commandery of the Order shall be in the City of Boston, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, United States of America, at which place it shall assemble.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### STATE COMMANDERIES.

Each constituted State Commandery of the Order shall regulate its own affairs, and shall have the power to adopt by-laws for its own special government, *provided* that the same do not in any way conflict with this Constitution, and shall pay annually to the Treasurer of the General Commandery a *per capita* tax of twenty-five cents upon each and every Companion in good standing, as reported upon the first day of January of each year.

The stated meeting of the several State Commanderies shall be held monthly, unless any Commandery by a two-thirds vote shall otherwise direct : *provided*, how-

ever, that every Commandery shall hold a meeting in the month of November of each year for the election of officers.

Ten Companions of a Commandery shall constitute a quorum at any meeting at which business is to be transacted.

The actual fares of the Commander, Vice-Commander, Recorder and the three delegates, or their alternates, to and from the place of meeting of a triennial or special congress of the Order shall be paid by the State Commandery which they represent.

## ARTICLE IX.

### ADMISSION OF COMPANIONS.

Any person above the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character and reputation, desirous of becoming a Companion of the Order, shall make application in writing, setting forth claims of eligibility, and accompanied by proofs of the same, in which it must be satisfactorily shown that the service of the participant was other than shore duty, regularly performed in the United States Navy or on an armed vessel in the service of the United States, or sailing under letters of marque and reprisal in time of war.

Said application, bearing the endorsement of two Companions, and accompanied by an admission fee of not less than five (\$5.00) dollars, shall be submitted to the Committee on Membership, who shall present their report to the Council of the Commandery. Upon a favorable ballot by that body the applicant shall thereupon become a Companion of the Order.

Enlisted men who have received the United States Naval Medal of Honor for bravery in face of the enemy may be enrolled exempt from fees and dues, by the Commanderies of the States in which they reside, and their names shall be placed at the head of the membership rolls.

## ARTICLE X.

### DIPLOMA OF MEMBERSHIP.

Every Diploma of Membership shall be authenticated by the General Commander and General Recorder, and by the Seal of the Order affixed thereto.

The Diploma shall be of the form following :

## NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

### GENERAL COMMANDERY.

**Be it known** that \_\_\_\_\_ *was received as a Companion*  
of the \_\_\_\_\_ *Class of the Naval Order of the United States, on the*  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ *Anno Domini* \_\_\_\_\_ *thousand* \_\_\_\_\_ *hundred*  
and \_\_\_\_\_, *and is entitled to all the rights and privileges thereto*  
*belonging.*

*In testimony whereof, the Seal of the Order is hereunto affixed, and the hand of the*  
*General Commander, at Boston, the* \_\_\_\_\_ *day of* \_\_\_\_\_ *in the year*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *thousand* \_\_\_\_\_ *hundred and* \_\_\_\_\_ *and of the*  
*Independence of the United States of America, the*  
*and of the Order, the*

*Attest.*

*General Commander.*

*No.*

*General Recorder.*

## ARTICLE XI.

### IMPEACHMENT OF COMPANIONS.

If the conduct or character of any Companion of the Order shall be impeached, the accusing Companion shall prefer his charges in writing to the Council of the Commandery, who shall notify the accused of the same, and if, after due investigation the Council consider the charges to be sustained, whether the accused be present or not, he may, by a majority vote, be suspended, or on their recommendation, expelled by a vote of two-thirds of the Companions present at a meeting of the Commandery.

The dismissal or dishonorable discharge from the Military or Naval service of the United States, or the conviction in a court of justice of any infamous offence of any Companion of the Order shall constitute *ipso facto* expulsion.

A Companion who has been expelled shall not be reinstated unless it be clearly proved that the charges upon which he was convicted were false, in which case he shall comply with the requirements governing the admission of Companions.

## ARTICLE XII.

## DEATH OF COMPANIONS.

Upon notice of the death of any Companion, it shall be the duty of all Companions to attend the funeral ceremonies, and if agreeable to the family of the deceased, see that the coffin is draped with the Union Jack, and the pall supported by Companions of the Order, when practicable.

## ARTICLE XIII.

## INSIGNIA.

The Insignia of the Order shall consist of a gold Cross pattée, one and one quarter inches in diameter, arms of blue enamel edged with gold.

## CROSS.

OBVERSE: In the center on a circle of red enamel five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, an eagle, wings extended, resting on an anchor surrounded by thirteen stars of five points all of gold, representing in substance the insignia of the Navy of the United States; the whole encircled by a band of white enamel one-eighth of an inch wide, displaying in letters of gold the motto of the Order, "Fidelitas et Patria."

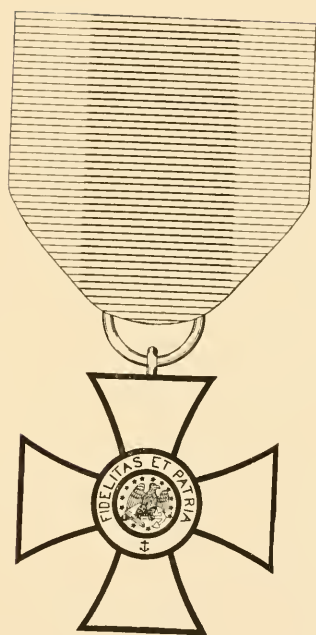
REVERSE: The Cross as above described. In the center on a circle of red enamel five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter shall appear in gold the insignia of the United States Marine Corps, the whole encircled by a band of white enamel one-eighth of an inch wide bearing in letters of gold the legend, "Naval Order of the United States."

The Cross shall be worn on the left breast suspended by a ribbon of heavy ribbed white silk one and one-half inches wide, with a red center three-fourths of an inch wide, the whole an inch and a half in displayed length.

Officers of State Commanderies shall wear the Cross suspended by the ribbon of the Order around the neck.

## STAR.

Officers of the General Commandery shall wear on the left breast a Star of silver of two and one-quarter inches in diameter on which shall rest the obverse of the



OBVERSE.



Cross as above described, surmounted by a Naval crown of gold and enamel; and a Cordon of heavy ribbed white silk ribbon four inches wide, with a red center two inches wide, worn from the left shoulder to the right hip, and finished with a bow-knot of the ribbon of the Order one and one-half inches wide, from which the Cross may be suspended. Past officers of the General Commandery shall wear the Star without the Cordon.

When the Insignia is not worn, a rosette one-half of an inch in diameter of the prescribed ribbon and pattern may be worn by Companions in the upper button-hole of the left lapel of the coat.

The Insignia shall never be worn as an article of jewelry, and upon the resignation or expulsion of a Companion it shall thereupon be returned to the Commandery and the amount paid for such Insignia shall be refunded to the said Companion by the Treasurer.

In case of the death of a Companion, the same shall be considered an heirloom. In no case shall a duplicate Diploma or Insignia be issued except on the recommendation of the Council of the Commandery of which the applicant for same is a Companion, based on his statement upon honor that the original was either lost or destroyed, *provided* that a Companion receiving such duplicate shall pay the same price as for the original.

#### ARTICLE XIV.

##### SEAL.

The Great Seal of the Order shall be one and seven-eighths inches in diameter, in the center a capstan on which is displayed the American eagle, wings extended, bearing on its breast the National shield; at the right an anchor, and at the left cannon and shot; the whole encircled by a band one-fourth of an inch wide, thereon the legend, "Naval Order of the United States — General Commandery, 1891."

Each State Commandery shall have a seal one and three-fourths inches in diameter, including the border, which shall bear the date of its charter, together with the legend, "Naval Order of the United States — Commandery."

#### ARTICLE XV.

##### AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended, *provided* two-thirds of the Companions present at any triennial or special congress of the Order shall approve; and pro-



vided further, that notice of such motion to amend, specifying such proposed amendment in full, shall be given in writing to the General Commander and the Commander of each State Commandery at least thirty days before such motion is to be considered.

ARTHUR W. CLARK,  
C. F. BACON PHILBROOK,  
W. LITHGOW WILLEY,  
JOHN C. SOLEY,  
CHARLES C. PHILBROOK,  
*Committee.*

*Boston, Mass., Aug. 15, 1893.*

JOHN C. SOLEY,  
*General Commander.*

FRANK W. NICHOLS,  
*General Recorder.*













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